

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8, 15, and 16 are pending. Claims 1 and 15 are amended. Claims 9-14 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. The remaining claims are unchanged. The full text of the presently pending claims is set forth below.

Listing of Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for routing a message between services in a message routing network, said message including a header and one or more of a body and an attachment, the method comprising:

(a) associating an identifier with an entity that has been authenticated by said message routing network, wherein said identifier is to be associated with an entity account upon authentication of said entity with a first service that supports said entity account;

(b) receiving, from a second service, a message including said identifier, said message being directed to a mapped service, wherein said mapped service is an entity account-specific representation of said first service and acts as a proxy for said first service, and wherein said mapped service is operable to determine whether a route for said message needs to be modified prior to delivering said message to said first service;

(c) authenticating **only** said message routing network using said identifier included in said message; and

(d) when said message routing network is authenticated using said identifier and said mapped service determines that said route for said message does not need to be modified, translating, by said message routing network, said message for delivery to said first service,

wherein said translated message includes said identifier and is directed from said mapped service to said first service.

2. (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said identifier is a message routing network ID.

3. (Original) The message routing method of claim 2, wherein said identifier is a message routing network ID for said mapped service.

4. (Previously Presented) The message routing method of claim 1, further comprising the step of associating said identifier with an entity account upon authentication of said entity with said first service.

5. (Previously Presented) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein said translating comprises adding an identifier of said entity account to said message.

6. (Previously Presented) The message routing method of claim 1, wherein upon receipt of said translated message, said first service associates said identifier with said entity account based on a mapping internal to said first service.

7. (Original) The message routing method of claim 1, further comprising receiving a second message from said first service, said second message being directed to said mapped service.

8. (Original) The message routing method of claim 7, further comprising translating said

second message for delivery to said second service.

9-14. (Canceled).

15. (Currently Amended) A message routing method, comprising:

(a) providing a proxy service for messages transferred between a first application service provider and a second application service provider in a message routing network, said first application service provider and said second application service provider providing application services;

(b) providing an identifier associated with an entity that has been authenticated by said message routing network, wherein said identifier is to be associated with an entity account upon authentication of said entity with said first application service provider;

(c) receiving, from said second application service provider, a message including said identifier, said message being directed to said proxy service, wherein said proxy service is an entity account-specific representation of said first application service provider;

(d) authenticating only said message routing network using said identifier included in said message; and

(e) when said message routing network is authenticated using said identifier, translating, by said message routing network, said message for delivery to said first application service provider, wherein said translated message includes said identifier and is directed from said proxy service to said first application service provider.

16. (Original) The message routing method of claim 15, wherein said proxy service adds an account identifier to a message that is transmitted to said second application service provider.